

Nicène Kossentini

Biography & CV

Born. 1976, Sfax, Tunisia

Lives and works Tunis, Tunisia and Paris, France

The work of Nicène Kossentini is an invitation to experience a symbiosis with a space of life that is both close and uncertain. Playing with black and white contrasts and zones of semi-visibility, Kossentini creates singular and minimalist environments. Her photographs and videos track the traces of sites and surfaces on the verge of disappearance, hypnotizing the spectator to look ahead to an imminent event. Her videos, photographs, sculptures, works on paper and paintings question current events in the world. In this perspective, she always shifts towards the search for aesthetics, beauty, and poetry in order to confront cold violence. Kossentini's research area draws its resources from her family history, intimate and intergenerational tradition of storytelling, as well as Arabic poetry, literature and philosophy.

Kossentini graduated with a degree in Applied Arts from the Fine Art Institute of Tunis, Tunisia and pursued Advanced Studies in Art from Marc Bloch University, Strasbourg, France. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Experimental Cinema at the University of Tunis, Tunisia.

Nicène works have been shown all over the world such as MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Germany / The Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE / The Louvre Museum, Paris, France / Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea / Les Abbatoirs, Musée - Frac Occitanie, France / The 7th and 12th Editions of the Bamako Encounters African Biennale of Photography, Mali / Musée d'art moderne de Collioure, France / Musée Paul Dupuy, Toulouse, France / Pori Art Museum, Finland / National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Russia / La Boîte | Centre d'art contemporain, Tunisia / Institut du Monde Arabe, France / Circulo de Bellas Artes, Spain / Institut des Cultures d'Islam, France / Photoquai: Biennial of World Images, Quai Branly Museum, France / The 2nd Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece.

In 2024, Nicène Kossentini was the winner of the Richard Mille Art Prize.

Education

2022 Diploma of Arts Appliqués_Fine Arts Institute of Tunis. Tunis, Tunisia

2019 Diploma of Études Approfondies en Arts Marc Bloch University. Strasbourg, France

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2022-2023 Tumadhir's walk. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia.
 2020 Memorising. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain
 2019 I remember the recommendations of Mr. President. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia.
 2017 They abused her by saying, 2012. Lateral Velázquez, Sabrina Amrani courtesy. Madrid, Spain.
 2016 Fugitive.Casa Árabe Córdoba. Córdoba, Spain.
 2016 Fugitive.Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
 2015 Dispersal. Muratcentoventidue. Bari, Italy.
 2014 The Flight of the Butterfly or the Myth of Icarus Revisited. Curated by Christine Buci-Glucksmann. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia.
 2014 Histoires en 5 Haltes. Curated by Djalila Cadi-Hanifi. Urban installation. Algiers, Algeria.
 2012 Paraître, Galeria Sabrina Amrani, Madrid Spain.
 2011 Boujmal, Selma Feriani Gallery, London, UK.
 2010 They abused her by saying..., La boîte Espace d'art contemporain, Tunis, Tunisia.
 2009 What the water gave me, Galerie Ammar Farhat, Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia.

Group Exhibitions

2024 Art Here. Curated by Simon Njami. The Louvre Abu Dhabi. UAE.
 2023 La Cinquième Saison. Jardins des Tuileries. Organised by Louvre Museum and curated by Annabelle Ténèze. Paris, France.
 2023 Front de mer. Musée d'art moderne de Collioure. France.
 2022 Arts de l'Islam - Un passé pour un présent. Musée Paul Dupuy. Toulouse, France.
 2021 Long Story Short. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
 2020 Au-delà des apparences. Les Abbatoirs, Musée - Frac Occitanie. Toulouse, France.
 2020 Ver Versus Ver II. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
 2020 Ver Versus Ver. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
 2019 12th edition of the Bamako Encounters – African Biennial of Photography. Bamako, Mali
 2019 Climbing Through the Tide. Curated by Basak Senova. Inaugural exhibition of B7L9, Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis, Tunisia.
 2017 Qu'avons-nous fait de nos rêves. Musée Slaoui. Casablanca, Morocco.
 2017 El Iris de Lucy.Centro Altántico de Arte Moderno. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
 2016 Feminart II.Espacio Turina. Sevilla, Spain.
 2016 El Iris de Lucy. Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain de Rochechouart. Rochechouart, France.
 2016 Effervescence. Curated by Michket Krifa. Institut des Cultures d'Islam. Paris, France.
 2016 El Iris de Lucy. Curated by Orlando Britto-Jinorio. MUSAC. León, Spain.
 2015 Moving Image Art Across the Arab World. Malmö Konsthall. Malmö, Sweden.

2014 Entre nosotros (Between us): Video Art from the Middle East and North Africa in a global culture Curated by Sabrina Amrani. Etopia Center for the Arts and Technology. Zaragoza, Spain.

2014 Songs of Loss and Songs of Love. Curated by Sam Bardaouil and Tim Fellrath. Gwangju Museum of Art. Gwangju, South Korea.

2014 Please rewind! Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.

2014 Recreational Purpose. Bahrain National Museum. Manama, Bahrain.

2014 The Divine Comedy; Heaven, Hell, Purgatory by contemporary African artists. MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst. Curated by Simon Njami. Frankfurt, Germany.

2013 Portraits, Selma Feriani Gallery, London, UK.

2013 25 years of arab creativity, The National Museum of Bahrain, Manama, Bahrain.

2013 Still fighting ignorance & intellectual perfidy, Kunsthalle São Paulo, Brazil.

2013 The after revolution, The FIAF Gallery, New York, USA.

2013 Videoformes, Video Art Festival, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

2012 Rosige Zunkunft, ifa-Galerie, Berlin Germany.

2012 Still fighting ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Video art from Africa Curated by Kisito Assangni, Pori Art Museum, Finland.

2012 25 années de la créativité arabe, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France.

2012 Still fighting ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, AIVA, Angelholm International Video Art Festival, Angelholm, Sweden.

2012 Cuerpos, Sabrina Amrani Gallery, Festival "Miradas de mujeres, Madrid, Spain.

2012 Degagements la Tunisie un après, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France.

2011 Photoquai, the Biennale of World Images, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, France.

2011 Magreb: Dos Orillas, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain.

2011 Images Affranchies, Marrakech Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco.

2011 Traversée, Palais des Archevêques, Narbonne, France.

2011 No Sky, No earth. Snow falls ceaselessly, Dar Mima, Tunis, Tunisia.

2010 Dialogue among civilizations, Durban Gallery, South Africa.

2010 Split, Darb center, Cairo, Egypt.

2009 Aftermath, 25th Alexandria Biennale for Mediterranean countries, Alexandria, Egypt.

2009 Periferiks, Can, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

2009 The 2nd Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece.

2009 Looking inside out, Africa in Oslo, Kunsternes Haus, Norway.

2009 AllArtNow, first edition of the international video art festival, Damas, Syria.

2008 Reorientations, Arab contemporary art, Brussels, Belgium.

2008 Video Art, Liteside Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2008 Without borders, Hispano/Maghreb Artistic Convergences, Thirtieth Pontevedra Art, Pontevedra, Spain.

2008 Mirage, Fifth Art Biennale of Tunis for Mediterranean countries, Tunis, Tunisia.

2008 2nd edition of the international meetings of Photography, Fes, Morocco.

2008 Women of images - Private Space, Museum of Boulogne Billancourt, France.
2008 L'Art au féminin, Museum of Contemporary art of Algiers, Algeria.
2007 The city and beyond, 7th edition of the African Biennale of Photography, Bamako, Mali.
2007 Women of images - Private Space, Museum of Tunis Kheireddine Palace, Tunis, Tunisia.
2006 The revealed image, orientalism / contemporary art, Museum of Tunis Kheireddine Palace, Tunis, Tunisia.

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Selected Residencies

2020 Elizabeth Krief and Jacques Manardo Residency. New York/ USA
2018 The Fountainhead Residency. Miami, USA.
2016 Kooshk Residency. Tehran, Iran.
2016 Residency Casa Árabe. Córdoba, Spain. (2nd part)
2015 Residency Casa Árabe. Córdoba, Spain. (1st part)
2013 Residency Project/ Invitation by the Ministry of Culture of Bahrain to produce a photographic project, Bahrain.
2012 A.R.I. A / Artist Residency in Algiers, Algeria.

Collections

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
British Museum. United Kingdom
Musée - Frac Occitanie, Les Abattoirs. France
Fondation Blachère. France
La Boîte | Centre d'art contemporain. Tunisia
Fatma Kilani Collection, Tunis, Tunisia.
Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunisia
Museum of Modern Art. Tunisia
Sindika Dokolo Foundation. Angola